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Objective

To endorse Peru's anti-narcotics commitment and to emphasize our strong interest in a continued and expanded GOP effort against illicit coca.

Background

Peru is one of the world's two major producers of coca, the raw material for cocaine. Peru has cooperated with us in the interdiction of illicit traffick and, with our assistance, is starting to move toward control of excess coca production. We and the GOP are initiating what we hope will be a major coca control program in the Upper Huallaga Valley growing area. However, President Belaunde is concerned about the political and social costs of this effort as well as about broader issues such as the developing insurgency and the state of the economy. Given these concerns he may request increased economic aid to help deal with the drug problem. There is proposed legislation in the Peruvian Congress that would allow limited legal coca leaf commercialization in the Upper Huallaga area, a move which is of concern to us.

Talking Points

- We appreciate Peru's recognition of its international commitments to bring illicit coca production under control.

- We appreciate the substantial cooperation the GOP has given in joint anti-narcotics efforts in the past and look forward to future collaboration.

- We are strongly supportive of the GOP's undertaking to eliminate all illicit coca production in the Upper Huallaga Valley by 1987.

- Critical factor that will influence success of the coca eradication/agricultural development in the Upper Huallaga Valley will be continued strong GOP commitment to project and full implementation of the coca plan's objectives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/CDC/MR
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- We hope any changes in legislation relating to coca cultivation will not affect the currently illegal status of coca being cultivated in the Upper Huallaga area.

- (If asked concerning additional assistance in the Upper Huallaga Valley):

The Upper Huallaga project is just one facet of the wide spectrum of our bilateral and multilateral assistance to Peru. The question of additional external assistance in that area - whether from the U.S. or other donors - can legitimately be reviewed as the existing projects of coca control and agricultural development unfold.

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